through dugwells', Awareness Programmes and Training Courses on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water, circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/UTs to enact suitable legislation for regulations and control of ground water development and management, institution of Bhoomijal, Samvardhan Puraskar and National Water Award to encourage the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)/Gram Panchayats/ Urban Local Bodies (for population up to 1 lakh) for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge through people's participation and Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) to create awareness about water conservation and rainwater harvesting. As per the feed back received through CGWB, these measures have yielded positive impact on the ground water regime.

Losses of properties due to flood

88. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the country on an average losing 1600 lives and Rs. 1800 crore worth of properties including crops, annually due to floods. Government has proposed to pump in Rs. 8000 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan to assist States in the execution of flood management works;

(b) whether another scheme costing Rs. 1500 crore for river management works in border areas and critical flood management work in the Brahmaputra and Barak river basins; and

(c) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and whether any guidelines in this regard is issued with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide assistance to State Government, a scheme for "Flood Management Programme" with an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crore has been approved under State sector of Central Plan. A Central Sector scheme for "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas" under Central Plan has also been envisaged in Eleventh Plan under which various activities for Ministry of Water Resources and its organization are undertaken.

Guidelines for providing Central assistance to States under the scheme for Flood Management Programme have been issued to all States in December 2007.

Proposal for drinking water from rivers

89. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under active consideration of Government to get drinking water from the source of the rivers instead of getting it from the banks near the residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the rivers identified for obtaining drinking water and by when the water would be sourced; and

(d) how long Government would take to provide drinking water to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES